NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

WHILE I HAVEN'T DECIDED ON ANYTHING CONCRETE WITH MINAGI,

WHAT WAS THAT TWO DAYS AGO?

!

MAYBE I SHOULD TRY PRAYING.

THERE'S ALSO THE MATTER WITH MASTER.

「強くてニューサーガ」

第37話　原作：阿部正行／漫画：三浦純

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

P-

PRINCE CONRAD?!

I MERELY CAME HERE BECAUSE I HAD OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

HMPH, VERY WELL.

I WORSHIP CAIRYS,

SO I THOUGHT TO PRAY FOR MY VICTORY IN THE UPCOMING MATCHES.

ISN'T PRINCE ELDRAND WAITING FOR YOU AT THE PALACE?

.....

PRINCE CONRAD,

DO YOU UN-

WE WERE INTER-RUPTED LAST TIME,

BUT I STILL NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

UGH.

WE'RE LEAVING!

I CANNOT KEEP HIM WAITING.

... IN-DEED,

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE COMMOTION.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

I AM BAHREL, THE GALGAN EMPIRE'S HEAD PRIEST.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF,

O-OKAY...

I WAS HOPING FOR A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU, SIR KAIL!

I HAD HEARD OF YOUR PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS,

I AM SURE THAT OUR MEETING HERE IS THANKS TO THE GODDESS!

IT IS AN HONOR.

SO UNLIKE A NORMAL CLERGYMAN, HE HOLDS AN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

HEAD PRIEST...

WHAT A PAIN.

HA HA,

THANK YOU.

AND THE DAY YOUR NAME IS KNOWN ACROSS THE WORLD IS NO DOUBT SOON!

NO MATTER WHAT FAVORS YOU GRANT THOSE INFERIOR BEINGS, IT'S ALL IN VAIN.

HUH...

WHAT?

THOUGH WE CAN'T HAVE THAT LONG-EARED WOMAN AROUND.

IS HE TALING ABOUT URZA?

LONG-EARED WOMAN?

IF SHE STAYS BY YOU, IT WILL ONLY HURT YOU.

.....

I ADVISE GETTING RID OF HER AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

NO...

BUT THE EMPIRE'S IDEA OF MERITOCRACY IS QUITE TROUBLING.

IT MAY NOT MEAN MUCH COMING FROM ME,

IS THIS JUST A JOKE?

THE MALICE OOZING OUT OF HIM...

THOSE PSUEDO-HUMANS MIGHT FIND SUCCESS.

IF THINGS GO WRONG,

WHAT IS THIS?

NON-HUMAN HUMANOIDS?

THE NON-HUMAN HUMANOIDS NEED TO BE RID OF,

DO YOU NOT AGREE?

!!

.....

DON'T TELL ME...

ARE YOU A MELRA WORSHIPER?!

I EXPECTED AS MUCH OF YOU!

SO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR FAITH!

IF CAIRYS IS LIGHT, MELRA IS DARKNESS.

DAY AND NIGHT.

TRUTH AND FALSE-HOOD.

THE GODDESS MELRA:

THE OLDER TWIN OF CAIRYS, GODDESS OF THE EARTH, AND HER POLAR OPPOSITE.

HER WORSHIPERS NATURALLY BELIEVE IN HUMAN SUPREMACY

OF ALL OF THE HUMANOID RACES, MELRA ONLY LOVES THE HUMANS.

AND DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ELVES, DWARVES AND OTHER NON-HUMAN HUMANOIDS.

AND MOST COUNTRIES HAVE BANNED THEIR FAITH AND BRANDED THEM HERETICS.

OBVIOUSLY THIS SORT OF DOCTRINE ISN'T ACCEPTED

I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME OF YOU ARE STILL STRONGLY ROOTED IN SOCIETY,

BUT TO THINK IT WAS TRUE...

THE EMPIRE CERTAINLY HAS BANNED OUR FAITH,

BUT WE CAN JUST DISGUISE OURSELVES AS CAIRYS WORSHIPERS.

WHY DID YOU REVEAL YOURSELF TO ME?

... WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?

!?

THIS IS WHAT I WISHED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US, SIR KAIL

WE WISH TO WELCOME YOU AS THE MAN WHO WOULD SUPPORT US

I WAS ORDERED

HUH?

IF OUR LEADER DESIRES IT, THAT MEANS OUR GODDESS DESIRES IT,

SO IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO QUESTION IT

WHILE I HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD THE EXACT REASON,

YES,

SO WE WILL IMMEDIATELY CONVERT YOU

I WORSHIP CAIRYS

HOW EVER,

WHILE THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR THIS, I AM HONORED TO SET IT

IN TOMORROW'S MATCH,

YOU WILL FIGHT A SLAVE THAT WE HAD PREPARED

THEREFORE I HAVE COME UP WITH A PLAN

WHILE I WOULD LOVE TO ACCEPT YOU,

IT WOULD UPSET THE OTHER BELIEVERS IF YOU SUDDENLY RECEIVED SPECIAL TREATMENT

DO YOU MEAN

GOLDAR?!

U

A SLAVE?

BUT BY DEFEATING IT, YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE YOUR STRENGTH

THIS IS NOT MEANT TO BE A TEST,

I HADN'T LEARNED IT MYSELF

IS THAT ITS NAME?

GOLDAR?

WE WOULD NOT NEED TO DO THIS IF YOU WOULD WIN THE TOURNAMENT,

BUT HAVING TO GO UP AGAINST THE CRIMSON OGRE WOULD BE TOO MUCH

TELL WHOEVER LEADS YOU

SO PLEASE JUST USE THAT LIZARD INSTEAD

THAT I DON'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OTHER RACES

BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M GONNA JOIN YOU?

YOU'VE BEEN BLABBERING ON THIS WHOLE TIME,

.....

AND THAT I WON'T CONVERT

THAT LONG EARED WOMAN MUST REALLY HAVE DECEIVED YOU

NOW THIS IS QUITE A PROBLEM

DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH LAYING A HAND ON URZA!

SO WE CAN QUICKLY ARRANGE FOR

WE HAVE SOME PEOPLE WITHIN THE PALACE,

!

IT IS BEST FOR YOU

THAT WE DEAL WITH HER AS SOON AS WE CAN

I CAN CUT YOU DOWN RIGHT HERE IF I WANT TO!

AND TELLING PEOPLE THAT I WORSHIP MELRA WILL NOT HELP YOU EITHER

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF ZIRGUS' HERO DID SOMETHING TO THE EMPIRE'S BELOVED HEAD PRIEST?

I'M SURE YOU ARE WISE ENOUGH TO FIGURE THAT OUT

IN ANY CASE, MY DEATH WOULD NOT CAUSE US ANY PROBLEMS

SOMEONE ELSE WILL APPROACH YOU INSTEAD

DAMNED FANATICS

BUT IF YOU FEEL SO STRONGLY,

WE CAN PUT THIS MATTER ON HOLD FOR NOW

I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO TELL YOU

BUT NONE OF IT HAS TO DO WITH YOU

I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT GOLDAR REGARDLESS,

AND I STILL INTEND ON WINNING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW'S MATCH

I'VE ATTRACTED UNWANTED ATTENTION

SHIT!

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING

HE SAID HE'LL PUT THIS ON HOLD,

BUT I CAN'T RELAX NOW THAT I KNOW THERE'S MELRA WORSHIPERS IN THE PALACE

IT TAKES AN ASSASSIN

TO DEAL WITH AN ASSASSIN!

HMM... MELRA WOR-SHIPPERS...

THAT'S DEFINITELY TROUBLE-SOME.

SO YOU KNEW ABOUT THEM?

TO AN EXTENT.

THAT SAID, THOSE FANATICS DON'T WORK LIKE NORMAL ASSASSINS.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS NOW,

BUT I'M NOT AN EXPERT ASSASSIN.

I WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE FIGURING OUT THAT SOMEONE'S DEATH WAS ACTUALLY AN ASSASSINATION,

MUCH LESS LETTING ANYONE LEARN THAT I'M AN ASSASSIN.

IT WOULD BE MADE TO SEEM LIKE A NATURAL DEATH OR AN ACCIDENT,

WHILE AVOIDING DRAGGING ANYONE ELSE INTO IT.

... SO,

I'M GUESSING YOU WANT ME TO PROTECT THAT ELF NAMED URZA?

UH,

YEAH.

PRETTY MUCH.

HOWEVER, THEY CERTAINLY DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.

IN FACT, LIFE IS EXPENDABLE TO THEM.

WHEN THEY WANT TO SHOW OFF THEIR STRENGTH, THEY MAKE IT KNOWN.

BUT ALRIGHT,

I'LL ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST.

I OWE YOU AFTER ALL.

WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME JOB...

MM...

SO YOU CAN RELAX SINCE I CAN START GUARDING HER TONIGHT!

. . . .

CONVENIENTLY ENOUGH, I WAS PLANNING TO QUIT MY JOBS AS A WAITRESS AT BOTH THE BAR AND THE RESTAURANT TODAY!

NOW THEN, I'LL GO AND STICK TO HER WITHOUT LETTING HER CATCH ON.

WELL, IT'S BEEN ALRIGHT, I GUESS.

HM?

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF MONEY THROUGH BETS.

OKAY.

I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!

... I'M COUNTING ON YOU,

MINAGI.